

JOHN TURNER

John Turner and Margaret Fotheringham



were born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1822. They were married in 1842, and a son, John, was born to them a year later. After joining the Mormon Church in 1849, the family came to America in 1850, settling first in Illinois and then in Utah. The father went on to California. In 1855, Margaret Turner married John Muir and they moved to Heber in 1860. John Muir owned the only tannery in the valley for many years.

Margaret Turner died on May 26, 1897.

John Turner married Agnes Montgomery on February 10, 1864. Agnes was born in 1847, at Dulyre, Scotland, daughter of Robert and Mary Lourie Montgomery. Her family joined the Church about 1847, and their home was headquarters for Mormon missionaries until 1861, when her father came to Utah. One year later the family joined him. Just five months after their arrival he passed away, in January, 1862. Her brothers and sisters were: Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth, Levi, Robert, Christine, Josephine and John.

John and Agnes Turner were an industrious, enterprising young couple, active in the mercantile, livestock, farming and lumber businesses, and owned a number of saw-mill sets in the canyons east of Heber. In the following years these enterprises furnished employment for the entire Turner family. They built the "Turner Opera House," one of the finest amusement halls in the West. Many of the best theater troops that traveled through the country played on its spacious stage. Local talent, wedding parties, dances, and county fair exhibits found outlet within its friendly walls. In later years it housed a picture show, skating rink, bowling alleys, and garage.

Original Picture of
Opera &
Gen. Store in
hands of
Dorothy Christensen

AOUW
Hall
&
Turner
Store

JOHN MUIR TURNER

John Muir Turner was born December 27, 1877, at Heber, Wasatch County, Utah, son of John and Agnes Montgomery Turner. He was the eighth child of 12 children.

He received his education in a school-



house where the Heber First-Sixth Ward now stands. After a few years there he attended Central School, a building located where the present Central School now stands. He graduated from the eighth grade and was considered a well-educated young man.

As a young fellow he helped his father with farming and the cattle business. In the summer his father had a sawmill, and young John would work there also. Later on, his folks built a store and a theater and he helped by carrying the hod for the entire job.

As a boy he liked baseball and became a fairly good player. He later worked on the Ontario Drain Tunnel, where the Park Utah mine at Keetley now is.

In 1903, when the telephone exchange was built at Heber, he found a job constructing the lines. That same year he went to St. Louis, Missouri, to work, staying there until the fall of 1904. He went to the World's Fair several times and had the pleasure of showing friends and relatives from Heber around the fair.

When he arrived home from St. Louis he stayed but a short time. There was a gold-rush at Goldfield, Nevada, and there was much excitement. So, with Joe Averett and Louis Jaspersen, they rigged up a sheep wagon and a team of horses and set out to seek their fortunes. This trek required 23 days before Goldfield was reached.

While working there, his father died. However, he never received word of his death until about sixty days later, because he was out prospecting for gold. As soon as he was notified he made preparations to return home.

After his return home from Nevada he

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farmed, helping to operate the theater, raised cattle, and worked in the sawmill. This work he continued until about 1915. Then he and his brother James went to Idaho, to the Raft River Valley. There he met his future wife, Anna Willmore. They were married in Logan, Utah, on December 29, 1916. This marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. To this couple were born three sons and two daughters.

After several years working at various jobs, he finally secured employment with the Bonneville Lumber Company in Heber. Later he became manager of this business when the former manager moved away. He worked there 12 years, and then they sold out to another concern. He continued with the new concern about 18 months.

During the depression years of the 1930s he started his own lumber yard business. This new venture was called the Turner Building Supply. The original store opened for business April 1, 1934, and the location was the old Joseph Hatch coal yard down by the railroad track. On July 1, 1942, the present store on Main Street was ready for business. Vernal, in addition to the one in Heber. These businesses are operated by his three sons.

He was active in his Church. He took great pride in being on the building committee of the First Ward chapel when it was remodeled and enlarged. Ground for this project was broken on April 15, 1952, and the building dedicated on March 11, 1953.

He was a charter member of the Heber Lions Club and one of the oldest key members in the international organization.

Over the years, John acquired many friends, both young and old. He lived a full, active life practically to the very end.

On March 20, 1954, John Muir Turner died in a Salt Lake City hospital following a two-month illness. His funeral services were held in the First Ward chapel on March 22, and he was buried in the cemetery at Heber. 495

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